

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A tibial implant apparatus, comprising:

- a tibial plate having a superior surface and an inferior surface;
- a base extending downwardly from the inferior surface of the tibial plate;
- an elongate member including a shaft having a superior end and an inferior end and a radially projecting external shoulder formed adjacent the superior end; the tibial plate and the base defining a through-channel, the elongated member extending through the tibial plate and base superior-distally, the external shoulder of the elongated member ~~seating~~ seated in the through-channel, the shaft of the elongated member extending inferiorly away from the base, the superior end of the elongated member defining a superiorly facing, internally threaded, socket;
- a tibio-femoral insert removably engaged with the superior surface of the tibial plate; and
- a screw extending through the tibio-femoral insert and threadably engaged with threaded socket of the elongated member to retain the tibio-femoral insert on the tibial plate.

Claim 2 (canceled)

Claim 3 (currently amended): The apparatus of claim 1, wherein ~~[[the]]~~ a first portion of the elongate member is removably retained in the through-channel.

Claim 4 (canceled)

Claim 5 (original): The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the base includes a first generally keel-like portion.

Claim 6 (original): The apparatus of claim 5, wherein the first generally keel-like portion extends generally radially outwardly relative to the through-channel.

Claim 7 (original): The apparatus of claim 6, wherein the base includes a second generally keel-like portion extending generally radially outwardly relative to the through-channel at an angle of about 180 degrees from the radially outwardly extension of the first generally keel-like portion.

Claim 8 (currently amended): The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the elongated member is retained in the through-channel at least in part by at least one of screwing into the base and tapering into the base.

Claim 9 (canceled)

Claim 10 (currently amended): The ~~apparatus~~ apparatus of claim 1, wherein the socket includes a generally hexagonally-shaped portion.

Claim 11 (canceled)

Claim 12 (original): The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the base includes a plurality of protuberances positioned generally radially outwardly away from the through-channel.

Claims 13 - 21 (canceled)

Claim 22 (previously presented): A method for anchoring a tibial implant to a proximal tibia, the method comprising the steps of:

- seating a tibial plate on the proximal tibia;
- extending an elongated member through the tibial plate and into the tibia;
- mounting a tibio-femoral insert to the tibial plate; and

inserting a screw through the tibio-femoral insert and into threaded engagement with a socket formed in the elongated member to retain the tibio-femoral insert on the tibial plate.

Claim 23. (previously presented): The method of claim 22, wherein extending an elongated member through the tibial plate includes threadably engaging the elongated member with the tibial plate.